

LIMEHURST
Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's
Report, 1925.



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE
GREEN, SON & MILLS, PRINTERS, MINERVA WORKS.

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ANNUAL REPORT.



STRATHDENE,

TAUNTON ROAD,

NR. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,

April, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to submit to you my Nineteenth Annual Report, as to the health and Sanitary conditions of the District, for the year 1925. This is a Survey Report.

A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Rural District lies mainly between Failsworth Urban District Council, the County Borough of Oldham, and the Springhead Urban District Council (Yorks.) on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, the Boroughs of Mossley and Stalybridge on the east and the Droylsden Urban District Council on the west.

With the exception of the parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo which are Urban and Industrial in character, the district is rural, and varies in height above Ordnance Datum from 215·00 to 1000·00 feet. Geologically the district lies upon the grit and coal formation interspersed with clay, moss and sand.

The principal industries are Cotton Spinning, Bleaching and Dyeing, and Allied Trades, Iron and Steel Works, one Coal Mine, two Quarries and one Brewery.

AREA AND POPULATION.

Parish	Area in Acres.	Population 1921 Census	Estimated by Registrar General.
Alt.....	1,113·613		
Bardsley	883 076		
Hartshead ...	1,018·602		
Littlemoss ...	703·802		
Waterloo	341·139		
Woodhouses...	627·545		
Totals	4,687·777	9,342	for Births 9,442 for Deaths 9,242
Rateable Value, Sept. 1925, £47,783 0s. 0d.			
Sum represented by 1d. rate £170 0s. 0d.			
No. of inhabited houses (1921 Census).....2,211			

VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTH RATE.

During the year the births of 149 infants (71 males and 78 females) were registered; of these 1 male was illegitimate and 3 females. The Birth rate being 15·7 per 1,000 a decrease of 1·2 per 1,000 from the year 1924. The average Birth rate for the last ten years (1915 to 1924) is 18·2 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE.

During the year the Deaths of 113 persons were registered (46 males and 67 females) ; of these 9 (3 males and 6 females) were of children under one year of age. This gives an Infantile Mortality of 60 per 1,000 births registered. The total death rate for the year being 12·2, increase of 0·3 over 1924. The average death rate for the last ten years (1915 to 1924) is 14·2 per 1,000.

Tuberculosis of respiratory system caused 7 deaths, which gives a death rate of 0·75 per 1,000, being equal to 1923. The average for the 10 years (1915 to 1924) is ·92.

Diseases of the Zymotic or Infectious class caused 21 deaths an epidemic death rate of 2·27 per 1,000, last year's rate being 2·69 per 1,000

The following table shows the number of deaths from Zymotic diseases during the year.

Diphtheria	0
Scarlet Fever	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia.....	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough.....	1
Diarrhœa	1
Measles	1
Other Diseases notifiable, Pneumonia ...	4
Puerperal Fever	1
Total	21

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.		Male.		Female.
Births in 1925	149	...	71	...	78
Deaths in 1925	113	...	46	...	67

Per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Deaths from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years :—				
1895—1899	33·5	18·6	1·29	149
1900—1904	28·4	16·5	1·19	151
1905—1909	25·3	13·7	1·14	120
1910—1914	24·3	14·6	0·92	116
1915—1919	17·0	16·2	1·01	120
1920—1924	19·5	12·2	0·83	72
Year 1924	16·9	11·9	0·75	99
1925	15·7	12·2	0·75	60

Increase or decrease
on Mean of 5 yrs.

1920—1924	—3·8	Nil	—0·08	—12
Previous Year	—1·2	+0·3	Nil	—39

BIRTHS.					Rate per 1000	
Males	Females	Total				
71	78	149			15·7	
DEATHS.						
	Male	Female	Total			Rate per 1000
March Quarter ...	9	20	29	...		13·52
June do.	10	10	20	...		8·64
Sept. do.	10	10	20	...		8·64
Dec. do.	6	16	22	...		9·52
	35	56	91			

INWARD TRANSFERABLE.			Male	Female	Total
March Quarter.....			5	1	
June do.			3	5	
Sept. do.			3	5	
Dec. do.			3	2	27
			49	69	118

OUTWARD TRANSFERABLE.	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1000
March Quarter.....	0	0		
June do.	0	0		
Sept. do.	2	2		
Dec. do.	1	0	5	
Total number of Deaths			113	12·2
46 Males 67 Females.				

INFANTILE MORTALITY. (under 1 year)

3 males 6 females — 9 deaths
 Rate per 1000 Births registered 60·4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

All Causes.	Males	Females
Diphtheria	0	0
Measles	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	1
Whooping Cough.....	0	1
Influenza	3	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	6	1
do. (other forms).....	1	0
Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0
Cancer, Malignant disease	7	14
Diabetes	0	0
Rheumatic Fever.....	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage &c.	0	3
Heart Disease	8	8
Arterio Sclerosis	4	0
Bronchitis.....	1	7
Pneumonia (all forms).....	2	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach.....	0	0
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	0	1

Puerperal Fever	0	...	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Parturition	0	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	3	...	3
Suicide	0	...	0
Violence	3	...	3
Other defined diseases.....	5	...	15
Totals	46		67

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

Number of persons admitted from the Parishes stated to Lake Hospital during the year ended March 31st, 1926 :—

Parish.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Alt	1	1	0	2
Bardsley	1	5	0	6
Hartshead	0	2	0	2
Littlemoss	0	0	0	0
Waterloo.....	9	6	1	16
Woodhouses ...	1	1	2	4
	12	15	3	30

Number of persons admitted from the Parishes stated to Darnton House during the year ended March 31st, 1926 :—

Parish.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Alt	0	0	0	0
Bardsley	0	2	0	2
Hartshead	0	2	0	2
Littlemoss	0	0	0	0
Waterloo.....	1	1	0	2
Woodhouses ...	0	4	0	4
	1	9	0	10

Cost of Out-Door Relief in the following Parishes during the year ended March 31st, 1926 :—

	£	s.	d.
Alt	57	16	0
Bardsley	240	6	0
Hartshead	104	15	6
Littlemoss	3	5	0
Waterloo.....	458	15	0
Woodhouses	28	12	0
	£893	9	6

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

YEARS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5								
5—10	1				1			
10—15		1		1				
15—20	1				1			
20—25	1					1		
25—35	1		1				1	
35—45	2				2			
45—55	1	2			1			
55—65	2				1			
65 and over								
	9	3	1	1	6	1	1	
	12		2		7		1	

HOSPITAL ACCOMODATION.

Advantage is taken by residents in the district of facilities afforded them by the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary, Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne Infectious Hospital (by arrangement), and the Hartshead Joint Smallpox Hospital.

The Council make a payment of £21 to the District Infirmary and also pay an annual subscription of £20 towards the Motor Ambulance, and the latter is thereby available for service in the Rural District Council area.

A number of recommendations for admission and for treatment of in and out-patients are issued by the Infirmary Board to the Council, to be used at discretion.

Disinfection of Clothing at Ashton-under-Lyne Disinfector (steam) by arrangement, including Smallpox.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The large portion of the district is supplied from the Reservoirs of the Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Water Board, and part of the Parish of Alt from the Oldham Corporation Reservoirs, the quality of the water in both cases being excellent. The higher or upland portion of the parishes of Alt and Hartshead being dependent upon springs and wells the contamination is very remote. Frequent Analysis being made at the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester.

The hamlet of Luzley, in the parish of Hartshead, is supplied with water by gravitation from the small reservoir constructed in the neighbourhood by the Earl of Stamford Estates Trustees. In the same parish another small reservoir off Lilly Lanes supplies several isolated farms with water in a

similar manner, and a large well, fed by a spring, has been adapted to supply about a dozen scattered premises. These water supplies are delivered direct to the premises by means of small mains and service pipes, and analyses of the water which have been taken by the Estate have proved satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock and the Brook-courses in the district are under the supervision of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, and as your Council have three sewage schemes in operation in the district, the pollution of such river and streams is very slight.

The attention of the Council is called to the frequent total discolouration and contamination of the stream which flows between the Parish of Woodhouses and the Failsworth Urban District, caused by the Cutler Hill Chemical and Colour Works Limited.

While the Rivers Pollution Board Inspectors are particularly keen on the examination of the effluent at the Sewage Works, trade waste discharges appear to pass unnoticed.

SEWERAGE.

The built-up areas in the parishes of Waterloo and Bardsley are sewered, and the branch sewers extend to within reasonable distance from all but a few out-lying houses. Conversions of privy closets to W.C.'s is proceeding slowly, the owners bearing the cost, and until the Council resolve to contribute under the P.H.A. (Amend.) Act, 1907, and additional staff is employed to inspect and conduct the conversions, the abolition of the many insanitary privy middens and cesspits which still exist, must be, of necessity, very gradual.

Part of the parish of Littlemoss has a sewer discharging into a brook-course on the boundary of the 'Droylsden U.D.C., and the drainage from a number of houses including a few W.C's., is connected into this sewer. In considering the question of contributing to the scheme of general conversions, the Council should note that the cost of nightsoil-removal will decrease in proportion to the number of conversions effected, whilst the undoubted nuisance resulting from tipping the contents of privy-middens would be progressively lessened.

The sewerage systems in use are mostly of the combined type, but a number of pipes and culverts exist which convey surface-water only from streets, and from low-lying land, direct into natural brook courses.

Three new sewer connections were made during 1925, one at Waterloo and two at Bardsley, and a number of new man-hole covers fixed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are two disposal works for the treatment of sewage for the Waterloo parish, and another works for Bardsley.

These comprise straining grids, detritus tanks, feed channels, continuous flow sedimentation tanks, auxiliary storm-water tanks, filter beds with automatic rotary distributors and humus tanks. At the Waterloo works sludge from the detritus tanks is mixed with shoddy and disposed of as manure, and sludge from the sedimentation tanks is drained to special sludge tanks where, after settling, the liquid is syphoned off and distributed over auxiliary filter-beds of graded furnace clinker before discharge into a watercourse, and the sludge is pumped out by chain pump and conveyed by trough to sludge drying lagoons. The dried sludge is ultimately used on the land by farmers, etc., in the vicinity. The character of

the sewage differs at each works and that at Bardsley is practically all domestic and less in volume than at Waterloo.

Work on the preparation of larger sludge lagoons has proceeded at both Waterloo and Bardsley works.

Frequent samples of the effluents are taken by the Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

Further progress has been made with the conversion of insanitary and defective privy midden closets and at the close of the year still more conversions are imminent.

Your Council's resolution to adopt the Sanitary Inspector's advice in 1924, and to insist on all conversions being made to the freshwater system has not so far met with any serious objection on the part of the owners, and it may be noted that it was recorded by the County Medical Officer of Health as a matter of regret some years ago that you had permitted so many waste water closets to be installed. Particulars of the improvements effected are set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report under the heading of Closet Conversions, &c.

The repairs to, and relaying of, existing house drainage which frequently becomes necessary in carrying out these conversions constitutes an additional and very desirable improvement.

In my opinion it is a matter for regret, and one for future legislation to take note of, that in the Bye-Laws which at the present time can be enforced, no power is given to the Council to require complete relaying of house drainage at premises where midden conversions to W.C's. are being carried out, in the cases where such complete relaying appears advisable.

Drains which have dealt with the sewage from slopsinks or yard surface-water more or less successfully in the past, will not necessarily continue to act efficiently when a number of W.C's. are caused to discharge into the same and such entire re-construction, if carried out, has to be done by persuasion or argument. The common experience is to find that existing drainage is without any system of ventilation, without any proper means of access for inspection and cleansing, and frequently the pipes already in use are too large for the work they have to deal with. As a case in point:—The existing main drainage to a few houses might, on being opened up to make a connection for new w.c. drainage, be found to be of 9" diameter where it is obvious that one of 4" diameter would suffice and would be more self-cleansing. Unless the large drain is proved to be defective and a nuisance, there seems no power by which the Council can require it to be taken up and substituted with pipes of a suitable diameter. The volume of sewage which would pass along such large diameter pipes is insufficient to cause the pipes to be at all times free from sediment, and after introduction of sewage from water closets, blockages ultimately are the natural consequences and the w.c's. get blamed by the owners (who have installed them against their wishes, for financial reasons) whereas it is the main drain which would be at fault. The present administration of the law governing drainage which is suspected of being defective is a very cumbersome process and requires to be simplified. In my opinion too, it should be within the power of the Council to enforce the provision and laying of best quality glazed stoneware socket pipes for foul drainage systems and to prevent the use of "seconds" quality pipes—the presumption being that "seconds" pipes are of inferior quality, though not necessarily porous, or defective.

During the year the Council have agreed to carry out conversions including re-construction of the closet buildings and existing drainage at seven houses within the Parish of Waterloo, which have very insanitary privy middens, the work to be done under the powers vested in the Council by the Public Health Act, and the money to be repaid by the Trustees of the property, over a period of ten years. This work will be done early next year.

The first prosecution by your Council for non-compliance with the requirements of Statutory Notices, served for conversions, etc., was dealt with in the County Police Court, Ashton-under-Lyne, in November, and an Order to comply within three months was made by the Bench.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The collection of house refuse and nightsoil is carried out by the Council's workmen in the parishes of Waterloo, Bardsley, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, with the aid of hired horses and carts and the Council's nightsoil carts.

In the Park Bridge section of Alt Parish a weekly collection from closet pails and ashbins, etc., is made by the Firm of H. Lees & Sons, who own practically the whole of the property.

During the year the new manhole on the culvert constructed at Bardsley last year has been extended three feet higher in brickwork, and a taper piece and two sections of pre-cast concrete tubes have been fitted thereon and covered with a temporary iron plate. In this way it is intended to bring the manhole up to ground level by adding more tubes as the tip fills up.

The refuse tipping space on the sewage works area for the Parish of Waterloo appears good for another two years or so,

and ultimately this filled-up area will be grassed over and become useful ground.

At the end of March your Council appointed a rat catcher to work part-time on the various refuse tips, and a large number of rats have since been destroyed.

The house scavenging work is rendered easier as the privy and midden conversions continue, and your men are enabled to make more frequent visits to other premises.

The returns showing the conversions carried out this year are again more numerous than the preceding year, and some of the worst privy middens are now things of the past. The improved sanitary conditions must inevitably benefit the health of those who have so long lived amidst the former unhealthy surroundings.

The Council's attention is again called to the general practice on the part of the inhabitants of throwing old tea and tea leaves into the streets and roads. This objectionable and insanitary habit is so universal as to require a complete circularizing of the district, and I recommend the Council to adopt this course and then take proceedings against a few of the subsequent offenders.

SIDE STREETS IN WATERLOO AND BARDSLEY.

The condition of the private streets along the main road from Ashton-under-Lyne to Oldham continues in an unsatisfactory condition. Your Council have had this matter under consideration at several meetings during the past year, and it is hoped that an effort will be made to get these streets properly drained and surfaced in the near future.

The present condition of the roadways is such as effectively to prevent them from being scavenged and kept clean and,

when the streets have been used as a dumping ground for tea and tea leaves, sweepings from the house floors, all kinds of slop water and even human excrement, the result cannot be anything but extremely insanitary, and prejudicial to the health of the community. In winter, and during the wet weather, these streets are almost impassable, and in dry weather the dust which is formed and scattered by the wind and traffic is certainly conducive to respiratory and other diseases, besides being most unpleasant to everyone concerned.

In considering this question of the making up of private streets, the attention of the Council is called to the fact that you yourselves have become part owners of one such street, namely, Store Street, when you purchased the premises now in use as the Council Offices, and it is respectfully suggested that the first step be taken by the Council is to get this particular portion made up as an example and a lead to the other owners in your district.

The main road itself, against the state of which so much adverse criticism has been levelled in the past, is now being reconstructed and resurfaced with an asphalt carpet, and when this work has been carried out the unsatisfactory state of the side streets opening on to it will become much more in evidence.

During the past three summers your Council have, wisely I think, agreed to the suggestion of your Surveyor to tarspray a number of macadam roads in your district, and up-to-date some 66,600 square yards of surface have been treated.

Apart from the economical point of view (the increased life and wear of the road surface), the results obtained have in my opinion caused a decided decrease in the number of throat affections in the district, and this may be attributed to the

practical elimination of the mechanically irritating road surface dust which was formerly so much in evidence.

From the point of view of cleanliness, scavenging, minimum of dust, economy and general improved appearance and condition, I consider the innovation of surface tarring of roads and streets to be a distinctly progressive step.

SCHOOLS.

During the year a new connection has been made to the sewer under the main road at Bardsley, at such level as will permit of the complete drainage of the school premises (including proposed water closets) being brought into the sewer.

At the close of the year arrangements are nearing completion for the improvement of the sanitary accommodation, and for various additions and extensions at the village schools at Littlemoss, and it is hoped that this will have been carried out before another report is prepared.

There are eight Elementary Schools in the district, one of modern construction, the others of early construction. The water supply to these is good.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1—New Plans, etc. —

The following plans were submitted to the Council during the twelve months for approval :—

Pavilions	1
Extensions to Works	3
Canteens	1
Extensions to Houses	3
Extensions to Sculleries.....	2
Stables	1
Cowsheds	1

Garages.....	2
Wooden Extension to Church	1
New Drains W.C's., etc.....	4
Subsidy Houses	3
Miscellaneous	3

Particulars of the following buildings were also submitted without plans :—

Wooden Garages.....	6	Wooden Wash-houses	1
„ Hencotes	6	„ Cart Sheds...	1
„ Lock-up Shops	1	„ Greenhouses.	1
„ Coal-houses ...	2	„ Miscellaneous	2

Another large new wooden building was taken down by the owner, and is not, therefore, included in the above list.

One of the plans submitted of proposed subsidy houses was referred back to the Architects and subsequently was withdrawn.

The new cowshed is one for 15 cows, and intended to replace a shippon which has been condemned.

Many of the buildings concerned are wooden structures, and were approved as temporary buildings.

2—List of Books and Forms in use:—

- (1) Sanitary Inspector's Diary.
- (2) „ „ Monthly Report Book.
- (3) *New Buildings.*

Notice of Approval of Plans Book.

Forms of Notice of Intention to Build.

New Building Forms Nos. 1 to 5 as follows :—

1. Notice of commencement of work.
2. Notice of completion of foundations.
3. Notice of completion of drains.

4. Notice that drains are ready for connection to sewer.

5. Notice of completion of new buildings.

(4) *Infectious Diseases.*

Register of Infectious Diseases.

Zymotic Enquiry Book (pocket size).

(5) *Factory and Workshops :*

Register of Factories and Workshops.

Pocket Note Book for Inspectors.

List of Outworkers.

Certificate Book *re* provision of means of escape from fire.

(6) *Canal Boats :*

Register of Canal Boats.

Inspector's Pocket Book.

(7) *Slaughterhouses :*

Register of Slaughterhouses.

„ „ Licenses.

(8) *Dairies and Cowsheds :*

Register of Dairies and Cowsheds.

Pocket Note Book for Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Inspectors.

Notice Book to Dairymen, Cowkeepers, etc.

(9) *Housing :*

Register of Dwellinghouses inspected under the
“Inspection of District Regulations.”

Housing Inspection printed forms—large foolscap size).

(10) *Smoke Inspections :*

Record of Smoke Inspections.

Smoke Inspector's Pocket Book.

(11) *Register of Retail Purveyors of Milk.*

Registration Certificate Book for Retail Purveyors
of Milk.

(12) *Register of Bakehouses :*(13) *Preliminary and Statutory Notice Books re nuisance.*

Statutory Notice Book re provision of sufficient
closet accommodation and various other Notice
Books required in the administration of the
P.H.A's.

Record of privy middens and privy cesspit closets
converted to W.C's.

waste water closets converted to W.C's.

pail closets converted to W.C's.

privy middens and cesspits converted to
pail closets.

ashpits converted to galvanized bins.

renewals of ash bins.

renewals of closet pails.

additional new W.C. and pail closet
accommodation.

repairs to dwellinghouses, including
drainage.

In addition to these the time sheets kept by men engaged
on house scavenging constitutes a record of the number and
situation of all conveniences emptied each day, and the number
of loads removed to the refuse tip.

3—Notices Served—Nuisances.

No. of Informal Notices served, (concerning 116		houses)	54
„	„	complied with (from 1924)	9
„	„	„ (from 1925)	36

No. of Statutory Notices served (concerning 85	
houses)	46
„ „ „ complied with (from 1924)	13
„ „ „ „ (from 1925)	31
„ Legal Proceedings authorised	1
„ „ „ taken.....	1

(The Court made an Order on the Owners to comply with the Notices and abate the nuisances within three months).

Notices Served—Insufficient Closet Accommodation.

No. of Statutory Notices served	2
„ „ „ complied with	1

4—Infectious Diseases and Disinfections.

The year has been specially noteworthy for an outbreak of Smallpox during the first three months. Prompt measures were taken in dealing with the patients and contacts, with co-operation of the County M.O.H's. Department, all bedding, clothing, rugs, mats, etc., which were not destroyed as useless were disinfected by steam at the Ashton-under-Lyne Steam Disinfector, and the patients moved to the Isolation Hospital at Hartshead

Numerous vaccinations and re-vaccinations were carried out and special attention was given to the schools.

The duties of visiting contacts throughout the incubation periods, and in disinfections and removals, placed a heavy task on your Sanitary Inspectors Department, and no extra staff was engaged for this work. Visiting contacts who were vaccinated and remained at work, had largely to be done in the evenings in the Inspector's own time.

In the disinfection of the houses, the usual practice of spraying with Formalin solution, followed by fumigation with Formaldehyde lamps was followed.

Under the Order made last year, Chickenpox was a notifiable disease in the district for the first five months of the year.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital in Ashton-under-Lyne, owing to lack of accommodation and the impoverished circumstances in the home.

One Diphtheria patient was removed to Hospital at Oldham, from a dairy farm, and the parents paid the maintenance charges as was agreed on.

Beds were destroyed from two premises on the advice of the Medical Officer.

The number of premises disinfected, 44; Verminous premises in addition fumigated and sealed, 2.

Chickenpox was made a notifiable disease by resolution of the Council at a special meeting called for that purpose.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Total Cases at all ages.
Smallpox	6
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....	4
Erysipelas.....	0
Scarlet Fever	19
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)...	0
Puerperal Fever	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Dysentery	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia.....	} 18
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.....	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2
Chicken-pox	15
Lead Poisoning	0
Total.....	78

The number of remises disinfected.....15

5—Closet Conversions, etc. :

No. of Privy Middens converted to fresh-water closets.	30
„ Cesspits „ „ „	6
„ Waste-water closets „ „ „	0
„ Pail closets „ „ „	1
„ Totally new W.C's. complete	1

Year's total of new W.C's..... 44

„ Privy middens converted to pail closets ...	8
„ Cesspits converted to pail closets	6
„ Totally new pail closets built.....	4

Year's total of new pail closets 18

In connection with the above conversions, the number
of midden ashpits abolished 22

Do. Number of cesspits abolished 5

Number of galvanized ashbins substituted for middens 54

„ „ „ „ ashpits	13
„ „ „ tubs and boxes	6
„ „ renewals and new additional	8

81

„ ashpits and ground pits abolished..... 7

„ new closet pails provided including
renewals and conversions 44

Number of existing closet buildings re-constructed or repaired in addition to entire new buildings	31
„ new inspection chambers built on drains ...	8
„ inspection chambers improved and repaired	5
„ premises where drains were entirely reconstructed	31
„ premises where drains were partially reconstructed	22
„ „ (other than above) where new branch drains were laid	14
„ „ (newly built) with new drains laid ...	5
„ „ where existing drains were repaired ..	8
„ drain blockages cleared	9
„ new cast-iron vent shafts fixed	4
„ new farm cesspools and filters constructed	1
„ farm cesspools emptied and cleared	1
„ yard walls repaired	6

For new houses, fresh-water closets are installed where sewers or other satisfactory drainage for the same exist, and pail closets elsewhere.

6—Smoke Nuisance and Abatement.

This is a subject which is coming increasingly to the fore, and to which more attention is likely to be given in the future than in past years.

It is closely associated with the general Town-Planning movement which is taking place throughout the country since the passing of the H. & T P.A., 1919, etc., and, as a brief reference only has been made to the matter in my report during recent years, the following particulars may be of interest.

A Conference of Local Authorities was held at Oldham on the 8th August, 1907, on the subject of Smoke Abatement and the following table of time limits was agreed upon as being the most workable in this part of the County, and which your Council also agreed to adopt:—

Number of Boilers in use.	Number of minutes black smoke permitted per half hour.
2	2
3	3
4 or more.	4

The last prosecution for an offence in this district appears to have been in 1909, when the Defendants—The Rock Mill Co. Ltd., were ordered to pay costs and to abate the nuisance within six months.

A Conference was held at the Manchester Town Hall, on the 19th April, 1924, at which all Authorities comprising the Manchester and District Joint Town-Planning Advisory Committee area were represented, and which your Chairman and Sanitary Inspector attended on your behalf.

It was agreed to form a Joint Smoke Abatement Committee to which the Medical Officer of Health of the City of Manchester was appointed as Hon. Secretary *pro. tem.*, and the work entrusted to this Committee was to draw up new standards suited to the recent growth and developments in housing and industry in the Committee's area, and the recommendations of the Committee are to be published in due course for the information of the Local Authorities concerned.

A questionnaire was circulated to all the Authorities in December asking for information of what has been done in

each district during recent years, and in particular asking how the term "Black Smoke in such a quantity as to be a nuisance" is defined in practice, and in supplying the information required from Limehurst, it appeared that the number of steam raising firms and firms with coal fire furnaces in this district is 13; the number of boilers and other furnaces in use is 42; and the number of chimney stacks involved is 20.

7—Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

It is intended to devote more time to the inspection of these during the coming year than has been possible since the War period.

A recent notification from H.M. Inspector of Factories has brought to light an instance where your Council were unable to take action owing to the non-adoption of the necessary Urban powers. The notification referred to insufficient sanitary accommodation, and as this particular requirement is one in which the Local Authority is most interested, I advise the Council to make application for the necessary Urban powers to be granted under section 22 (2) of the P.H.A., 1890, Part III.

The Urban character of part of your district would justify you in taking this course.

The following is the amended list of Factories and Workshops in the Limehurst District:—

Factories in Waterloo.

James Fletcher, Waterloo, Machinist.

Stuart Bros. Ltd., Waterloo, Sponge Cloth Manufacturers.

C. E. Cordingley, Waterloo, Saw Mill.

F. Woolley & Son, Waterloo, Stone Masons, & Builders.

J. Smith, Waterloo, Wood Turner, etc.

Rock Mill, Waterloo, Cotton Spinning.

Atlas Mill, Waterloo, Cotton Spinning
Workshops in Waterloo.

J. Winterbottom, Waterloo, Boot and Shoe Repairer.

Waterloo I. & P. Co-op., Waterloo, Boot Repairing.

J. H. Mellor, Waterloo, Bootmaker and Repairer.

A. Leech, Waterloo, Boot and Clog Repairer.

Factories in Bardsley.

Maple Mill, Bardsley, Cotton Spinning.

A. Lees & Sons, Bardsley, Ironworks.

J. & A. Lees Dobb, Bardsley, do.

Heginbotham & Sons, Bardsley, Smiths.

Kerfoot & Co., Bardsley, Manufacturing Chemists.

Wadding Co., Bardsley, Wadding.

D. McCoye, Bardsley, Ticket Puncher.

J. Dearden, Bardsley, Joiner.

Chamber Colliery Co., Bardsley, Colliery.

Workshops in Bardsley.

H. Nield, Builder, etc., Bardsley.

Waterloo I. & P. Co-op., Bardsley, Clogs.

Factories in Littlemoss.

Lumb Mill, Littlemoss, Cotton Spinning.

Workshops in Littlemoss.

Hadfield & Co., Littlemoss, Poultry Appliance
 Manufacturers.

Factories in Hartshead.

Mrs. Cottrell, Hartshead, Quarry.

Mr. Kenworthy, Hartshead, Quarry.

Taylor Bros., Hartshead Ropewalk.

Factories in Woodhouses.

Walton & Murdock, Woodhouses, Bleachers.

Workshops in Woodhouses.

Mrs. Taylor, Woodhouses, Brewery.

Factories in Alt.

H. Lees & Sons, Alt, Ironworks.

H. Briggs, Alt, Cotton Winders, etc.

Factories	24
Workshops, &c.	8
	32

A small colliery worked by manual labour only has closed down during the year, the coal seam having been exhausted.

Communications were received from H.M.I. of Factories calling the attention to the inadequacy of the arrangements for exit by means of the fire escapes at the Rock Mill, Waterloo, and to the necessity for lime-washing of walls at a small confectionery establishment.

Both these matters received immediate attention and the deficiencies were made good to the satisfaction of the Inspector and the Council.

FOOD.

No special local arrangements in force for the inspection of the above, samples being taken by the Inspectors of the Lancashire County Council.

The milk places are found clean and generally satisfactory, whilst the utensils are properly kept clean, although not always protected from dust.

During the year the Council have put into force the Rural District Councils (Slaughter-houses) Order and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

Two inspections of pig carcasses and organs were made after emergency slaughtering, and at the close of the year two prosecutions for slaughtering on unlicensed premises and without notification were awaiting hearing by the Court.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

	Appox. date of Opening.
1. Waterloo Co-op. Society, Store Street, Waterloo	1915 July
2. W. Potts, Langham Street, Waterloo...	1918
3. R. & S. Mather, Wilshaw Lane, ,, ...	1902
4. Ernest Saxon, Ney Street, ,, ...	1912
5. Ed. Baron, Oldham Road, Bardsley ...	1892

8—Bakehouses and Confectionery.

There are only two large bakehouses in use in the district at the present time, as most of the bread consumed is brought in from adjoining boroughs in covered motor vans.

The bulk of this imported bread is delivered and retailed, wrapped in special grease-proof paper, and this is, of course, very satisfactory.

Most of the baking done in your district is in confectionery goods, and there are five premises which have special sectional iron ovens erected. The remainder bake in ordinary ovens attached to the kitchen range, there being fifteen premises in all on which baking for sale is carried on.

In every case the ovens are fixed in the dwelling-house part of the premises or immediately adjacent thereto.

On inspection there has been no cause for complaint, but representations have been made in several instances that the flour and other ingredients should be better protected from dust.

9—Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 77 Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and two Retail Purveyors in your district at the present time, and two retailers not resident in the R.D.C. area. Some of the cowsheds are of modern construction, and sanitary condition, while others need

improvements both in structural condition and sanitary condition, and it is hoped next year to commence a systematic inspection of these premises with a view to getting the necessary improvements and alterations effected.

One cowshed was condemned as being unfit during the year, and following on the action taken by the Council, a new cowshed for 15 cows has been erected. This is a model type of building of substantial brick construction and without lofts over.

A large quantity of the milk produced is retailed outside the district in the adjoining boroughs.

For the most part the water supply is both plentiful and satisfactory in quality, and there have been no complaints received of dirty milk during the year.

A small quantity is retailed in bottles in the Parish of Waterloo from the depot of the Lancashire Hygienic Dairies, Ashton-under-Lyne.

REG. THOMPSON,

Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Westhulme Hospital, Oldham, and six cases of Smallpox to the Hartshead Hospital.

Antitoxin supplied free in all Diphtheria cases.

Bacteriological examination of Swabs are made by arrangement with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever reported.

Upon receipt of notification the premises are visited and inspected to ascertain if any sanitary defects exist, and, if so, steps are at once taken to have the same remedied. Isolation of the patient as far as practicable at home is insisted upon,

and disinfectants in liquid and powder form supplied free during the period of illness, also others, upon giving satisfactory reasons, are likewise supplied upon application at the Council Offices. 44 houses were disinfected.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

No action is being taken by the Council, but the Lancashire County Council have made arrangements for examinations to be made free of charge at Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Lancashire County Council has a Tuberculosis Dispensary in the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, and cases from your district receive attention there.

Notification of Tuberculosis by Medical practitioners are efficient and no action to enforce the regulation or prompt notification have been necessary.

The Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. J. L. Stewart, M.B., D.P.H., at Ashton-under-Lyne, arranges for visits to the houses by a Health Visitor who reports upon the conditions at each of the premises where persons affected live, and special defects as to windows, damp walls, floors or ceilings. Upon receipt of these reports steps are at once taken to have the defects remedied. Nourishments in the form of milk, &c., are supplied in suitable cases.

Where desired and if possible houses are disinfected after cases of Phthisis.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

No action has been taken under these regulations.

ADOPTED ACTS.--(1904) Power to join in the formation of a Joint Smallpox Hospital.

(1907) Powers of Section 45 Public Health Acts, 1875, for the provision of tips.

(1909) Powers of Section 49 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as regards special expenses.

(1911) Powers under the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, except parts 7, 8 and 9.

Powers under part 3 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890 as far as it applies to Rural Districts in operation from June 1st, 1911.

Powers under Section 154 of the Public Health Acts, 1875.

Confirmation of powers under Section 155, 127 and 160 of the Act of 1875.

Powers under Section 3 of the Public Health (Building in Streets) Act, 1888.

In the year 1900 the Council adopted the Model Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885.

Powers under Section 39 of the P.H.A., 1875, and Section 24 of the ditto Amendment Act, 1890, for the erection of public conveniences in the Parishes of Bardsley and Waterloo, as from 10th December, 1923.

Powers under 276 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to create a Highways Department as from 5th July, 1924.

Chickenpox was a notifiable disease for the first five months of 1925.

Order declaring Chicken Pox a Notifiable Disease was made for six months.

Powers have been obtained to construct Public Urinals and to provide a Highways Depot. (1924.)

There is no Mortuary in the district. The G.C. Railway Canal being a resort of suicide by drowning the necessity for such a building is increased. The practice of taking bodies to sheds or stables for post mortem examination is much to be deplored.

DISTRICT NURSING.

The District Nurses of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Association visit the district.

MIDWIVES.

These are registered by the Lancashire County Council. There are three resident in the district, and supplemented by non-resident Midwives.

HOUSING.

The total number of houses in the district is 2,211, mostly working-class houses.

The population of the district is 9,442.

Average number of inhabitants per house 4.27.

There are a few back to back houses in Bardsley and Woodhouses. These have, as you are aware, been reported before, but as no new houses are in contemplation of erection action to alter the same has been delayed.

The high cost of materials and labour has militated against carrying out substantial repairs to properties and also against the conversion of privies and pail closets to the water carriage system, but some progress is being effected.

I must again call your attention to the congested and insanitary condition of premises in parts of the parishes of Waterloo and Bardsley mentioned in my previous reports.

Since the passing of the 1923 Housing Act much greater possibilities are opened up for the provision of working-class

houses under the Government Subsidized Schemes, which your Council has now adopted.

The granting of subsidies and loans encourage building of more dwelling-houses by this means.

It is desirable from every point of view that the owner-occupier should be given encouragement in a practical form on these lines, and it may be observed in this connection that as new houses are completed and occupied so will the rateable value of the district increase.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT DURING 1925.

Road Tar Spraying.

Water Closet Conversions.

Pruning of trees and removal of overhanging obstacles by the farmers and others on the main roads.

Four new subsidy houses nearing completion at Waterloo.

Widening of road at Lumb Lane, Waterhouses Bridge.

Temporary running of Motor Buses between Ashton and Droylsden via Daisy Nook, and which it is hoped will be recommenced.

The new premises for the Council's Offices with improvements and additions thereto are nearing completion, thus raising the appearance and the tone in that locality.

The Parish Councils of Waterloo, Littlemoss and Bardsley have entered into an agreement in consideration of an annual payment (equal to 2½d. rate) with the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation for the use of their Fire Brigade in case of fire, and this has added greatly to the feeling of increased safety in the residents.

The use of the Ashton Free Library is extended to Waterloo for annual payment equal to 1d. rate.¹ Books are now borrowed by the ratepayers. The L.C.C. have adopted the Libraries Act, and the rest of the district (other than Waterloo and Hartshead) are proposing to take advantage of the Act. Your Health Officials furnish Mr. Fletcher, the Librarian with a list of the houses where infectious diseases occur from time to time.

Substitution of the Electric Tramways between Oldham and Ashton by Trackless Electric Buses.

IMPROVEMENTS CONTEMPLATED IN THE DISTRICT IN 1926.

Reconstruction of road between Ashton and Oldham with bituminous surface by the L.C.C. now in progress.

Laying Electric Cables for lighting and power along Oldham Road (Waterloo and Bardsley), Cranbourne Road, Taunton Road, and Newmarket Road, under a Parliamentary Bill promoted by the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation which will permit of a great number of the houses in these two parishes being lighted by Electricity as well as some of the streets and schools and places of public worship nearly completed.

Building of a New Bridge over the Canal by the G.C. Railway (Waterhouses Bridge).

Building of a New Bridge over the River at Daisy Nook by your Council, and hoping to secure land for a Highways Depot for which powers have been obtained from the Ministry of Health. The old Bye-laws of the district have been revised and at close of 1924 a new series was in draft and the new bye-laws, it is hoped, will be put in force this year.

It is my desire to see still further improvements, such as would follow upon periodic inspection of Farms and Farmsteads under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Act.

Systematic inspection of houses under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, where it is laid down that the Local Authority shall cause to be prepared from time to time by the M.O.H., or by an Officer designated by them, but acting under his direction and supervision, a list or lists of dwelling-houses the early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable.

The systematic and periodic inspection of slaughter-houses and butchers' shops to prevent the sale of diseased meat.

Frequent smoke observations with subsequent prosecution of offenders, and although I have no desire to unduly interfere with industry, at the present time especially, yet much of the black smoke nuisance in my opinion is caused by careless stoking, and easily preventible.

In the returns for Housing the Ministry require a statement as to Bye-Laws, &c., in force, and the following particulars are therefore given.

NOTES ON BYE-LAWS.

The Bye-Laws of the district are out of date and during the year new drafts have been prepared by the Surveyor for New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter-houses, Nuisances, and for the Drainage of existing buildings, and there is every prospect of these being confirmed and put into force during the first half of the new year.

A continuance of the prosecution of the conversions ; but to accomplish all these things in an area of 4,689 acres with

your present staff is quite impossible, and I hope the Council will in the near future take up the question of increasing the staff.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

G. F. BOWMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4689
Estimated Population.....	Births 9442 ; Deaths 9242
General Death Rate	12·2
Death Rate (Tuberculosis)	0·92
Infantile Mortality.....	99·3
Number of Dwelling-houses	2,211
New Houses erected	(in progress) 4

1.—Inspection. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Number inspected	176
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District Regulation, 1910	24
Number of houses found unfit for human habitation	0
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	107

2.—Remedy of Defects without formal notice.

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	6
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.*(a)—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing
Town Planning Act.*

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served to repair	5
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Number of houses rendered fit :

(a) By Owners.....	Nil.
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(b) By the Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
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Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close...	Nil.
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(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
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Number of houses in which defects were
remedied :—

By Owners	Nil.
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By the Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
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*(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the
Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 :—*

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.....	Nil.
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Unhealthy Areas. Nil

Staff. None specially appointed.

(d) No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners
or converted to workshops 1

STAFF EMPLOYED.

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances (joint appointment)
and myself.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors, or
Inspectors of Nuisances,

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	17	1	..
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ..	6	1	..
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises) ..	1	0	..
Total	24	2	..

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	..	..	..	..
Want of Ventilation	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding			..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Accommodation—				
insufficient	..	..	..	..
unsuitable or defective ..	..	..	..	..
not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..	..	..
Other offences	2	2	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	2	2	..	..

